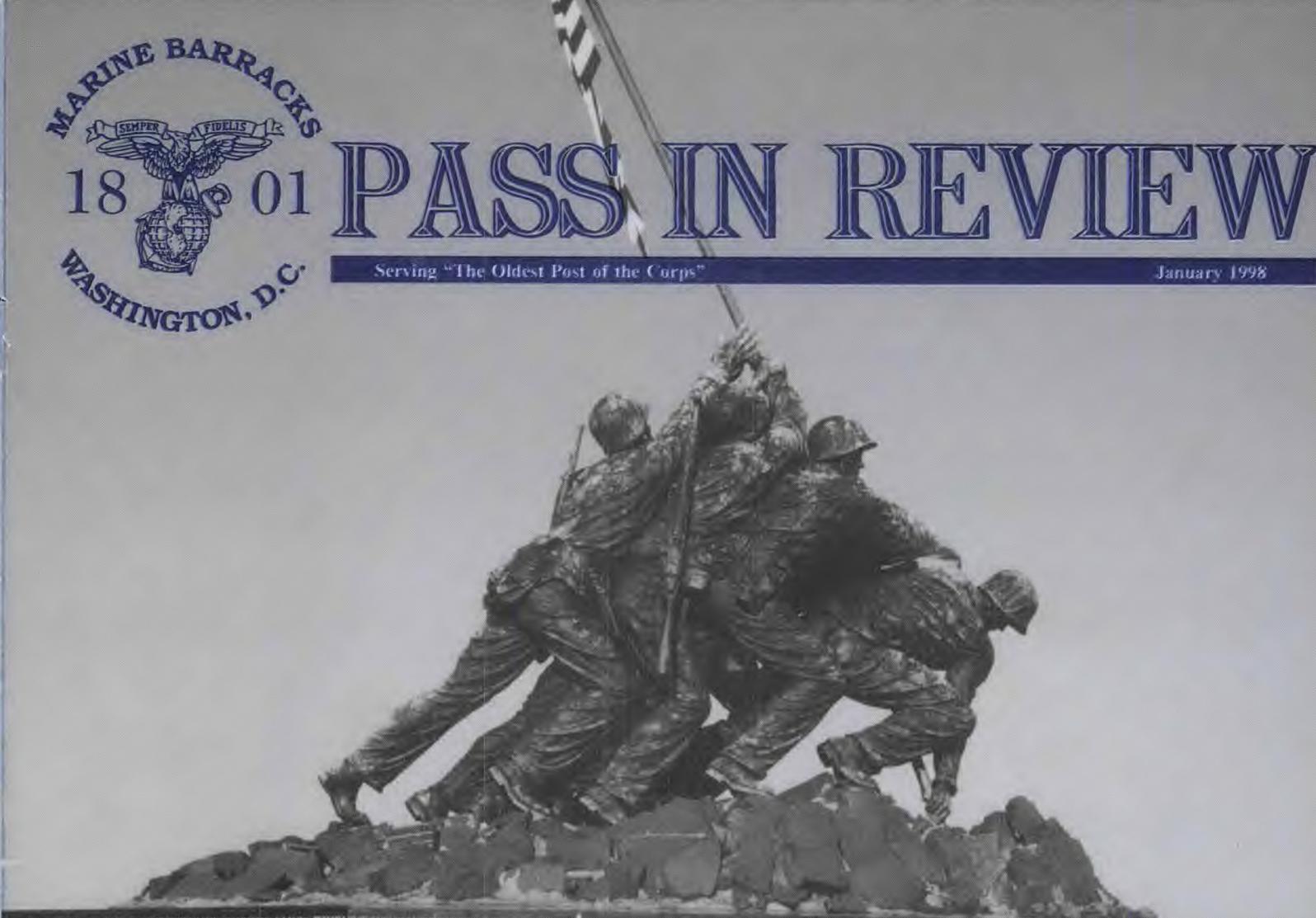


PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

January 1998



Happy New Year!

Barracks offers tax support - SDP Challenge Day

Chargeable offense

Marines face UCMJ for alterations

by Capt. Katherine M. McDonald
Barracks Adjutant

At one time or another, we have all wished to be taller, broader in the chest, narrower in the waist, smarter, younger and, not too suprisingly, even older. Marines are no exception.

In recent months, however, several Marines thought they were smart enough to go beyond just wishing they were older and made the serious mistake of actually trying to make themselves just a few years older. They either altered or wrongfully acquired fraudulent military identification cards, state drivers licenses or other forms of personal ID one uses to enter bars in and around the D.C. area. They mistakenly assumed the command would not notice. If our errant Marines were as smart as they thought they were, they would have realized they would get caught eventually.

Five Marines here have been caught using fake or altered ID cards. All five of the Marines went to Office Hours. Some recent infractions may go to a court-martial because of surrounding circumstances. The consequences of this offense are serious, and Marines should understand the penalties they may face. Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice you could be charged with any or all of the following:

Article 108 - Loss, damage, destruction or wrongful disposition of military property of the United States. (That is right, your military ID is just on loan to you from the government, and they will want it back in the same condition it was in when they gave it to you.)

Article 92 - Failure to obey an order or regulation. (The law orders you not to drink underage. If you are caught in an establishment that serves alcohol or if you are caught purchasing alcohol and you are underage, you are suspect.)

Article 81 - Conspiracy. (If you knew a lance corporal was under 21 and you helped him alter the card so he could go to the bar with you, you are just as responsible for the fake ID as the Marine who used it.)

Article 123 - Forgery. (If you "find" someone else's ID card and alter it, you are potentially facing five years confinement under the UCMJ.)

There are a number of other offenses a Marine can be charged with in connection with making, altering or using a Military Identification Card or other forms of personal identification. My advice to anyone reading this is quite simply, don't do it! The law says you need to be 21 years of age to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages, so don't try to push it. It is simply not worth it.



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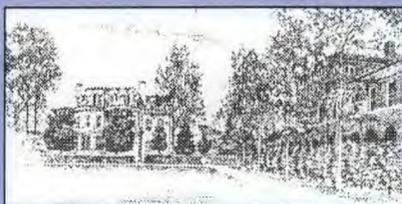
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On the Cover

The Marine Corps Color Guard "Parade Four" and the U. S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon stand before the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial. (Official USMC photo)

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Bull Dogs hit the ice

The Marine Corps' only hockey team hits the ice in the D.C. area.

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Tax season hits

Barracks offers free state and federal filing services

by *Cpl. J.D. Pierce*
Staff Writer

With the 1997 tax season at hand, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., is prepared to make the burden of tax preparation and filing a little lighter.

In coordination with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, the barracks is offering free tax preparation and filing services to all active duty Marines, Sailors, and their spouses and children from January to April.

"The key word here is free," said Capt. Katherine M. McDonald, barracks legal officer and VITA coordinator. "We want Marines to consider using the VITA program before they go out and spend their hard-earned money at an outside tax-preparation agency. We want our Marines and Sailors to keep the money they've earned in their pockets."

The VITA program has been used at various installations around the Marine Corps for a few years, but this is the first year the barracks is able to offer it to Marines here from its own tax center, according to McDonald.

The barracks' main tax center, located in the Legal Office, will be the central operating area for gathering information, preparing tax forms and electronically filing returns. The Marine Corps Institute will also perform the same services on site as a satellite tax preparation and filing center.

"We have 10 Marine volunteers who will be trained and ready to assist their fellow Marines in the intimidating maze of tax season," said McDonald.

The barracks' volunteers will be IRS-trained in the preparation of 1040EZ, 1040A and 1040 tax returns,

according to McDonald. The volunteers will also learn how to itemize deductions on a Schedule A, prepare Schedules B and D, and deal with the special needs of retirees who receive pensions and social security.

"VITA-trained volunteers will review W-2 forms and related documents, and prepare a Marine's federal and state tax returns while they wait," said Navy Lt. Christine L. Pecora, the Military District of Washington VITA representative. "Marines will leave the tax center with a copy of their completed returns, which will be electronically transmitted to the IRS."

The best part about the VITA system and the use of electronic transmission is that, in most cases, Marines should have their federal returns deposited in their accounts in nine days, according to Pecora.

"Electronically transmitting these forms directly to the IRS saves our Marines time and money," said McDonald. "But, none of this can work without the participation of the individual Marine."

Participation in the battalion-wide program is made even easier with convenient locations for the tax centers and user-friendly operating hours.

The barracks is offering other conveniently located tax centers at MCI and, with the support of the Navy, at Naval Station Annapolis for the Marines of the United States Naval Academy Company and in Thurmont, Md., for the Marines in Security Company, according to McDonald.

Tax assistance is also available at the Washington Navy Yard Legal Services Office, Henderson Hall and

Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

"Our main goal through this whole program is to help our Marines get the best service possible," said McDonald. "It is important that everyone make use of this program."

In a recent White Letter issued by Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak, participation in the program throughout each command in the Marine Corps is expected to reach or exceed 50 percent.

"This is a quality of life program with recognizable benefits," said Gen. Krulak in White Letter 11-97. "We can once again save our Marines and Sailors millions of dollars."

According to the commandant's letter, last year's tax assistance program was a great success with 18 Marine Corps tax centers in the United States and Japan electronically filing over 40,000 federal returns and 12,600 state returns. Overall, the tax program assisted 127,800 clients, saving our Marines over \$5 million in tax preparation and filing fees.

The barracks' tax service office will be open four to five hours a day, and, as tax season reaches its height, will be open after working hours to help those Marines who can't get away from their office during the day.

For more information on the tax center working hours or further questions contact Capt. McDonald at 433-4073 or Cpl. Thomas E. Dailey at 433-3180.

Marines study discipline, self-defense in new class

by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer
Staff Writer

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation section here recently added an Aikido class to their list of programs.

MWR offers its Aikido classes Mondays and Wednesdays at 3 p.m. in the barracks gymnasium, according to Capt. Karl C. Rohr, MWR officer here.

The class instructor has taught Aikido for 27 years around the world, to include four years at the Aikido World Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.

"I originally started my Aikido in late 1966, and I've been studying and teaching it ever since," said Carlos Rodriguez, Aikido instructor.

According to Rodriguez, Aikido is the art of learning self-defense without using aggression.

"In today's society, we resolve [problems] through aggression," Rodriguez said. "Aikido says you can come to an understanding without using aggression."

To become proficient in Aikido, a student must "undo the condition of being aggressive," Rodriguez explained.

This is a mental state which can take three to five years to achieve, said Rodriguez. By the time a student creates a "base," a basic understanding of Aikido, self-defense should be executed instinctively.

For example, blocking a punch would be a natural reflex rather than a premeditated response to a situation.

"We are conditioned to practice something and see results by breaking someone's ribs and by dominating somebody, but then you have to pay the consequences, whether they are legal or whatever," Rodriguez said. "Aikido says, 'Hey, I am conditioned within myself. I have the discipline to deal with aggression and not become aggressive.'"

For students like Cpl. Christopher R. Zovinka, Marine Band stage crew, Aikido's method of self-defense is one

which also offers an alternative way to deal with day to day life, plus it gives him a chance to better himself as a Marine.

"Aikido is teaching me a different way to fight, and it's teaching me a way to deal with situations that come up," Zovinka said. "It's also making me a better Marine because I'm learning something new, and the more you learn, the better you are."

In addition, Zovinka is using Aikido to prepare for the future.

"I want to make a career out of the Marine Corps," Zovinka explained. "And just in case I end up going to combat, something like this might end up saving my life."

While Marines like Zovinka may not be at 8th & I long enough to become experts in Aikido, Rohr said it is never too late to start; and for a monthly fee, everybody at the barracks has the chance to gain some valuable knowledge from Rodriguez.

"[Rodriguez] is a great instructor who's really good at what he does," Rohr said. "And he is going to be here as long as there's interest."

"For me, Aikido is a way of life," Rodriguez said. "This is all I do, and it flows real deep with me."



Aikido instructor Carlos Rodriguez (left) disables his student during a demonstration for the Marines in the Aikido class here recently. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)

Legal section points Marines in right direction

by Cpl. Nelson O. Akeredolu
Staff Writer

Unfortunate incidents such as car accidents or major decisions like home-buying often cloud a Marine's focus.

The Marine Corps helps Marines who lack the legal expertise to tackle these major events with professional support in the form of legal assistance.

Legal assistance advisors counsel Marines on issues such as divorce, powers-of-attorney, child support and other matters affecting a Marine's legal standing. However, legal assistance does not provide aid in matters falling within the realm of "disciplinary action."

"We don't handle things like NJP, courts-martial or appeals," said Denise Billups, a legal technician with Henderson Hall. "The base or regional Judge Advocate's office provides legal defense for those issues."

There are four main legal assistance offices in this region for Marines. They are located at Headquarters Marine Corps, the Washington Navy Yard, the Pentagon and Marine Corps Base, Quantico.

"If a Marine has a problem that falls outside of what his unit's Legal Office can help him with, we help him here," said Billups.

Although legal assistance helps Marines deal with minor, easily solved legal matters such as parking tickets, it is designed to help Marines with problems they cannot handle on their own.

"It's pretty simple. If a Marine has a problem that he or she is losing sleep over, [the Marine] might need legal assistance," said Capt. Katherine M. McDonald, battalion adjutant and legal officer here.

A Marine can obtain help from legal assistance with uncontested divorces, notaries, powers-of-attorney, name changes, landlord/tenant disputes, child support and other such issues, according to Billups.

"What we do here is more along the lines of advising Marines on what they are facing and helping them to find, fill out and file paperwork for their cases," said Billups.

Legal assistance officers rarely take cases to court. Although they are experienced lawyers, many are not authorized to represent Marines in civil cases, according to Billups. However, legal assistance "reps" can help Marines obtain a qualified civilian lawyer if necessary.

The barracks legal officer has a limited role in legal assistance matters for Marines here, according to McDonald.

"I cannot advise Marines individually," said McDonald. "Advising an individual service member poses a potential conflict of interest because, if their personal problem becomes a command issue, I am the one that will have to advise the command on what course of action to pursue, such as appropriate punishment, and so on."

Despite the fact the legal officer cannot individually advise Marines, the legal section here has procedures in place to help Marines.

"Although I can't advise on legal issues, it is to the benefit of the command to help our Marines. If a Marine is worried about a personal legal problem, he cannot train properly. We can't send a Marine to do riot control training if he is worried about an erroneous [credit card] bill," said McDonald.

"We have resources available to answer very basic questions," she added, "such as 'How do I get Married?' ... 'How do I adopt?' ... 'How do I break my lease?' ... and policy on rules of having part-time jobs."

The section also acts as a notary public and helps Marines get the necessary forms for their cases.

To better help Marines, the legal section has created the "Preventive Law Program," which provides Marines with basic information on legal matters.

"It provides materials and other resources for Marines to consult when they have questions," said McDonald. "This helps in two ways. It helps you to learn the legal 'lingo,' so if you do end up going to see a legal assistance officer, you will have a clearer understanding about what you face. The other benefit is that many times these books and resources give Marines their answers right away, so they do not have to go all the way to Quantico for a relatively simply answer."

The resources also help Marines foresee possible legal problems by providing them with information on issues such as car-buying and other money-related issues.

"We also have information that will help a Marine from being a victim of things like telemarketing or consumer fraud," said McDonald.

However, McDonald warns that the resource materials are just that, "resource material."

"All the answers can't be found in the books, but they will give the Marines a lot of their options," said McDonald.

British tried for arson

Officers fined trillions for burning capitol



A table of evidence was stacked against six Royal Marine officers Nov. 18 when they stood trial for burning the capitol. (photo provided by Capt. Katherine M. McDonald)

by **Cpl. Nelson O. Akeredolu**
Staff Writer

Six Royal Marine Officers were "tried" for arson and fined over \$132 trillion at Center House Nov. 18 for the burning of the District of Columbia by the British in 1814.

The officers were detained, searched, charged and tried, during an annual comedic event known as "British Reparations Night."

The British were fined the price of burning a mid-sized American city in 1814 — plus tax, penalties, inflation, tariffs and sales tax — or a donation of ale, according to tradition.

Reparations Night began in 1981 when former barracks commander Col. O.K. Steele and Col. Michael J. Reece, former military attaché to the

British embassy, decided to stage a humorous event, in which the British are held responsible for burning the nation's capitol.

It is an event many officers here say they view as the newest barracks tradition.

"The barracks is a place with many traditions," said Lt. Col. Michael B. Kessler, barracks executive officer. "British Reparations is an event that we have been doing for several years now to celebrate the camaraderie and mutual history of the British Royal Marines and ourselves."

This year's celebration began when barracks guards escorted the Royal Marines to Center House to stand trial.

Maj. Robert F. Killackey Jr., Headquarters and Service Company commander and court barrister for Reparations Night, presided



Maj. Robert F. Killackey Jr., H&S company commander and "court barrister," and Capt. Katherine M. McDonald, legal council, are stunned by the case built against the British. (photo provided by Capt. Katherine M. McDonald)

over the court. Killackey's dubious legal "credentials" included such accomplishments as completing the Legal Administrative Clerk course of the Marine Corps Institute and serving as "augmentee counsel" to O. J. Simpson during his criminal trial, according to the court bailiff.

The senior Royal Marine officer, Col. Andy R. Pillar, the assistant military attaché to the British Embassy, and his cohorts stood before the court to hear the charges. The Royal Officers faced penalties for crimes such as "destruction of public property within the District of Columbia" and "violation of the Clean Air Act by starting indoor and outdoor fires within the District of Columbia."

The prosecution then called witnesses who presented evidence, such as matches and an unlighted torch, followed by the British presenting their defense. The Royal Marines' defense attempted to clear the British, but in the end, "the Brits" were found guilty and fined \$132,459,972,676,475.92.

Needless to say, the royal Marines opted to make reparations in the form of ale.

Many barracks officers present expressed delight at the event.

"This is a very enjoyable evening," said Capt. Sunil B. Desai, H&S Company executive officer.

"It's nice to know we can still be friends 200 years after we kicked their butts," joked Desai.

The Royal Marine officers also expressed delight at the event.

"This is a great event," said Pillar. "We have a long history ... and any chance to [celebrate our relationship] is always wonderful."

1998 Navy Times Pay Chart

		Years of service														
		< 2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
Commissioned officers																
O-10	7566.30	7832.40	7832.40	7832.40	7832.40	8133.00	8133.00	8583.60	8583.60	9197.70	9197.70	9813.60	9813.60	9813.60	10424.70	
O-9	6705.60	6881.40	7028.10	7028.10	7028.10	7206.80	7206.80	7506.60	7506.60	8133.00	8133.00	8583.60	8583.60	8583.60	9197.70	
O-8	6073.50	6255.90	6404.10	6404.10	6404.10	6881.40	6881.40	7206.60	7206.60	7506.60	7832.40	8133.00	8333.70	8333.70	8333.70	
O-7	5046.60	5389.80	5389.80	5389.80	5631.60	5631.60	5958.00	5958.00	6255.90	6881.40	7354.80	7354.80	7354.80	7354.80	7354.80	
O-6	3740.40	4109.40	4379.10	4379.10	4379.10	4379.10	4379.10	4379.10	4527.90	5243.70	5511.30	5631.60	5958.00	6159.30	6461.70	
O-5	2991.90	3512.70	3755.70	3755.70	3755.70	3755.70	3868.80	4077.60	4350.90	4676.70	4944.30	5094.60	5272.50	5272.50	5272.50	
O-4	2521.50	3070.80	3275.40	3275.40	3336.30	3483.30	3721.20	3930.30	4109.40	4290.30	4407.90	4407.90	4407.90	4407.90	4407.90	
O-3	2343.30	2619.90	2801.10	3099.00	3247.50	3363.60	3546.00	3721.20	3812.40	3812.40	3812.40	3812.40	3812.40	3812.40	3812.40	
O-2	2043.60	2231.70	2681.10	2771.40	2828.70	2828.70	2828.70	2828.70	2828.70	2828.70	2828.70	2828.70	2828.70	2828.70	2828.70	
O-1	1774.20	1846.50	2231.70	2231.70	2231.70	2231.70	2231.70	2231.70	2231.70	2231.70	2231.70	2231.70	2231.70	2231.70	2231.70	
Officers with more than four years' active duty as enlisted or warrant officer																
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	3099.00	3247.50	3363.60	3546.00	3721.20	3868.80	3868.80	3868.80	3868.80	3868.80	3868.80	3868.80	
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	2771.40	2828.70	2918.40	3070.80	3188.10	3275.40	3275.40	3275.40	3275.40	3275.40	3275.40	3275.40	
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	2231.70	2384.10	2471.70	2561.70	2650.50	2771.40	2771.40	2771.40	2771.40	2771.40	2771.40	2771.40	
Warrant officers (for Army, Navy and Marine Corps)																
W-5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4074.60	4228.80	4351.20	4534.50	
W-4	2387.40	2561.70	2561.70	2619.90	2739.30	2859.90	2979.90	3188.10	3336.30	3453.60	3546.00	3660.30	3782.70	3900.60	4077.60	
W-3	2169.90	2353.80	2353.80	2384.10	2412.00	2588.40	2739.30	2828.70	2918.40	3005.70	3099.00	3219.90	3336.30	3336.30	3453.60	
W-2	1900.50	2056.20	2056.20	2115.90	2231.70	2353.80	2443.20	2532.60	2619.90	2712.00	2801.10	2889.00	3005.70	3005.70	3005.70	
W-1	1583.40	1815.30	1815.30	1967.10	2056.20	2144.40	2231.70	2323.50	2412.00	2501.70	2588.40	2681.10	2681.10	2681.10	2681.10	
Enlisted																
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2777.40	2839.80	2904.00	2970.90	3037.50	3096.00	3258.60	3385.50	3576.00	
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2328.90	2396.10	2458.80	2522.70	2599.60	2648.40	2713.50	2873.10	3000.90	3193.50	
E-7	1626.30	1755.60	1820.10	1884.30	1948.50	2010.60	2074.80	2139.60	2236.20	2299.80	2363.40	2394.30	2555.10	2682.30	2873.10	
E-6	1398.90	1524.90	1588.20	1655.70	1718.10	1779.90	1845.30	1940.10	2001.30	2065.80	2097.00	2097.00	2097.00	2097.00	2097.00	
E-5	1227.60	1336.20	1401.00	1462.20	1558.20	1621.80	1685.70	1748.10	1779.90	1779.90	1779.90	1779.90	1779.90	1779.90	1779.90	
E-4	1144.80	1209.30	1280.40	1379.10	1433.70	1433.70	1433.70	1433.70	1433.70	1433.70	1433.70	1433.70	1433.70	1433.70	1433.70	
E-3	1079.10	1137.90	1183.20	1230.30	1230.30	1230.30	1230.30	1230.30	1230.30	1230.30	1230.30	1230.30	1230.30	1230.30	1230.30	
E-2	1038.30	1038.30	1038.30	1038.30	1038.30	1038.30	1038.30	1038.30	1038.30	1038.30	1038.30	1038.30	1038.30	1038.30	1038.30	
E-1 >4	926.10	926.10	926.10	926.10	926.10	926.10	926.10	926.10	926.10	926.10	926.10	926.10	926.10	926.10	926.10	
E-1 with less than 4 months	— 856.80															

Check next month's issue of Pass in Review for information on the new Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH); Basic Allowance for Subsistence reforms; and changes in Family Separation Allowance, Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay and Aviation Career Incentive Pay.



Man overboard!

Two Marines from Company "B" step off the 5 meter platform to demonstrate the abandon ship technique during the company's water survival qualification training at Marine Corps Base Quantico Dec. 2.

Once the Marines enter the water they must remove their packs to use as floatation devices and complete a 25 meter swim while sighting and engaging the enemy. The next phase includes treading water for 30 minutes, then completing a 500 meter swim. The final requirement is to demonstrate the proper way to use their trousers as floatation devices by inflating them and floating for one minute.

The Marines are attempting to earn the highest qualification, referred to as WSQ, or Water Survival Qualified. To earn this rating Marines must complete each of the four prior levels successfully. (photo by Sgt. Patrick E. Franklin)

Challenge Day: SDP chooses new inspection teams



Cpl. Terione D. Todd performs the rifle inspection portion of the Silent Drill Team's performance during Challenge Day tryouts Nov. 5. (photo by Cpl. J.D. Pierce)

by Cpl. Chance D. Puma
Community Relations

Challenge Day. It is a term that is extremely significant for Marines of the Silent Drill Platoon. A day when a "chosen few" step forward and compete against each other to earn a coveted position on the rifle inspection teams. It is a personal drama they live for six months while training on their own, working to make the cut, without ever knowing when they are to be judged.

That day came Nov. 5 when the Silent Drill Platoon held its annual Challenge Day to determine the members of its rifle inspection teams for the 1998 Parade Season.

Last year's primary rifle inspector, Cpl. Heath D. McCrindle, judged the competing Marines on their individual manual-of-arms skills to fill the primary and secondary billets in two different inspection teams.

Each team consists of four Marines: the "inspector," the senior Marine tasked with the most complex rifle manual; the "single," the first Marine to perform during the inspection sequence with a distinct inspection arms manual; the "throw-out," so named because of the Marine's trademark toss to the inspector; and the "double," who performs a move-for-move mirror drill with the inspector.

Fourteen Marines were in the running for the inspection teams, each training for one of the four positions in the inspection sequence. They were allowed to practice the specialized ceremonial drill only when a senior Marine, already qualified for the position from last year's challenge

day, was present, according to Lance Cpl. Roupen Bastajian, who won the number-two double position. "If you're not on a team, you can't do the spins unless you're supervised," he said.

"The Marines spin on their 'comp time' and liberty hours," said Bastajian, "often going through the rifle manuals until their hands were swollen or bruised. A lot

of people can't hang, so they quit."

The challengers had more to stress about than "fat hands and long hours," though, according to Cpl. Terione D. Todd, who won the primary inspector billet. "Challenge day this year was about who we could keep and not keep."

It was a climax to the stressful, long hours of preparation and drill the challengers had undergone, especially to Marines who had already served two years at the barracks — they were additionally competing for the "number one" spot in their billet to stay in the platoon. Second-year Marines who didn't make the grade expected permanent change of station orders, according to Lance Cpl. Martin G. Monica Jr., who won the number-one single billet.

"We're not really competing against each other, but each inspection team tries to be the best," said Bastajian, "As much as individual effort is involved, it's still a team thing."

In the weeks leading up to Challenge Day, the suspense increased.

"We had an idea that it was coming, but we didn't really know when,"

continued on pg. 12



Cpl. Heath D. McCrindle, outgoing primary rifle inspector, evaluates Cpl. Terione D. Todd (left) during tryouts. (photo by Cpl. J.D. Pierce)

USNA Co. works to give children happy holiday

by *Cpl. J.D. Pierce*
Staff Writer

NAVAL STATION ANNAPOLIS, Md. -- The United States Naval Academy Company spearheaded the Annapolis, Md., area Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots program to give children here a special Christmas this year.

Cpl. Rebecca D. Rotter, company administrative clerk, set USNA Co.'s goal of collecting 4,500 toys from local businesses, corporations and residents.

Last year the small company of Marines collected more than 3,900 toys, which were distributed to shelters, group homes and churches in the Annapolis area.

The company got involved in the program a few years ago after realizing the community's need and the lack of a local reserve station to run it, according to Rotter.

"All the Marines here have contributed to the Toys For Tots [program]," said Rotter. "And most of them even come in the office and ask me if there is anything going on that they can help with."

Through the company-wide effort of the Marines at USNA Co., the toy depository bulged with more than 700 toys during this year's first week of collection.



Gunnery Sgt. Rodger F. Dewey, company administrative chief, and Cpl. Rebecca D. Rotter, administrative clerk, collect a toy from an attendee at a recent Toys for Tots charity event in Glen Burnie, Md., for distribution to children in the community. (photo by Cpl. J.D. Pierce)

The USNA Co. began advertising for the program in October 1997, with the distribution of posters and advertising on local radio stations.

"The exciting thing is that people contact us wanting to be a drop-off point," said Rotter. "We even had a toy company from Ohio send us eight boxes of new toys. The response is tremendous."

According to Rotter, the Marines pick the toys up and distribute them to local churches and various child care organizations requesting the toys, and those organizations distribute the toys to individual families and children.

"The idea of the whole program is making sure children are opening a gift on Christmas day," said Rotter. "It gives them hope. If they have hope they can accomplish almost anything."



Lance Cpl. Anthony R. Aquino, admin clerk (left) and Gunnery Sgt. Rodger F. Dewey, admin chief, make room for more toys in the company storage area. (photo by Cpl. Nelson O. Akeredolu)

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Barracks families celebrate holiday season together

Smiles and laughter filled the John Philip Sousa Band Hall Dec. 6 during the Marine Barracks Holiday Party.

Children enjoyed food, snacks, games and a magic show at the family event. Barracks Executive Officer Lt. Col. Michael B. Kessler made a guest appearance as Santa to surprise the children with gifts.

"It was unbelievable," said First Sgt. Felix Robles Jr., Headquarters and Service Company first sergeant. "It was decorated nicely. The volunteers worked hard putting it together and did really well getting nice toys that matched each child's age without spending a fortune. People from every company were there — there were at least 200 children."

Others agreed the celebration was a success.

"I went for the kids," said Gunnery Sgt. Rodney A. Brown, fiscal chief. "We don't have too many family activities here, so a lot of people showed up to celebrate the holidays."

Activities like this are important at the barracks for families stationed here, according to Brown, who said "activities like the holiday party are good because they bring the families together."

The holiday party also provided a healthy family atmosphere, according to Robles. He explained Marines are not just Marines, they are family too.

"It was something the families will always remember," said Robles, "because the barracks did something special for them and made them feel more like a part of the barracks."



Look out Santa, this one may be working on taking your spot. Three-month-old Thomas, son of Maj. and Mrs. Robert F. Killackey Jr., confers with Santa at the Barracks Holiday Party Dec. 6. (photo provided by Maj. Robert F. Killackey Jr.)



The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Office took polaroid photos like the one shown here for each child who wanted to pose with Santa at the party. (photo provided by MWR)



Bobby (left), 5, and 3-month-old Thomas Killackey take a moment to pose for a photo with Santa at the holiday party. (photo provided by Maj. Robert F. Killackey Jr.)

SDP continued

said Lance Cpl. Jerry A. Heim Jr., who won the number-one throw-out position. "We came in one morning, and Cpl. Todd pulled us aside and told us we had an hour to be ready," said Heim, "and it was the longest day of my life."

"I was nervous too," said Monica, "On top of Cpl. McCrindle grading the drill, Col. Hejlik and Sgt. Maj. Frye were there with the company com-

mander and first sergeant."

"We didn't find out who won until the end of the day," said Heim. Winning a spot on the inspection teams gives a Marine a feeling like graduating boot camp all over again, or marching their first parade, he said.

November 5 came and went without many Marines at the barracks noticing anything special, but to some, one day made a world of difference.

A week after Challenge Day the Silent Drill Platoon was giving an exhibition show for the Marines in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The drill sequence went as usual until the first inspection. Todd was going down the long line when he stopped in front of Monica for the rifle inspection for the first time during a show. "My heart was racing," said Monica, "He just winked and I knew it was on."

USNA continued

The Toys For Tots program has been sending a message of hope to thousands of children for 50 years, according to Rotter.

"It all started with just one Raggedy Anne doll," said Rotter. "Today the program touches the lives of millions of children across the United States."

"This program is a positive thing for the Marine Corps, the Marines of this company and the community," added 1stSgt. James W. Sutton, company first sergeant. "People have come to expect us to support this program, and we aren't dropping the ball on this."

By pulling together as a company and reaching out to the Annapolis community the Marines are making a big impact on the lives of children, families and even other Marines, according to Sutton.

"I think Cpl. Rotter and the other Marines who have volunteered have made an extremely valuable effort in not only giving children toys, but creating a positive image of the Marine Corps in their local community," said Sutton.

The success of the program is not dependent upon the amount of toys brought in and distributed, but on the amount of lives the spirit of Christmas is able to touch, according to Rotter.

"Whether we give four or 4,000 toys, we are working to give children hope," said Rotter. "How can you fail when you give children the hope and love they deserve. That's the spirit of Christmas that I think the people of Annapolis and around the world are willing to share."

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

A Marine was found guilty of Article 92, Failure to obey a written order for altering a government identification card. He received a suspended forfeiture of \$553 per month for one month, 30 days restriction with 20 days suspended, and 14 days extra police duty (EPD).

A Marine was found guilty of Article 86, Absent Without Leave (AWOL). He forfeited \$524 per month for one month and received 60 days restriction with 30 days suspended.

A Marine was found guilty of Article 86, AWOL. He received a re-

duction to private first class, forfeited \$505 per month for two months, and received 60 days restriction.

A Marine was found guilty of Article 112a, Wrongful use or possession of a controlled substance. He received reduction to private, forfeited \$450 per month for two months, and received 60 days restriction.

A Marine was found guilty of Article 91, Disrespect to a noncommissioned officer, and Article 92, Disobeying a lawful order. He received a reduction to private first class, forfeited \$505 per month for two months,



and received seven days restriction.

A Marine was found guilty of Article 112a, Wrongful use or possession of a controlled substance. He received a reduction to private first class, forfeited \$450 per month for two months, and received 60 days restriction.

A Marine was found guilty of Article 86, AWOL, and Article 112, Drunk on duty. He forfeited \$237 per month for one month, and received 14 days restriction and 14 days EPD.

Promotion boards set for FY '98

by Col. David Hamilton
Promotions Branch, HQMC

WASHINGTON — The scheduled convening dates for enlisted promotion boards are:

Sergeant Major-Master Sergeant — Jan 27, 1998

Sergeant Major-Staff Sergeant (USMCR) — Oct. 27, 1998

Gunnery Sergeant — April 28, 1998

Staff Sergeant — July 28, 1998

The last CY97 enlisted board (Sergeant Major-Staff Sergeant USMCR) is currently in session. It convened Oct. 28. An ALMAR message will announce those selected.

CMC White Letter 5-97, dated June 9, 1997, addresses "Promotion Responsibilities" and reminds every Marine that preparation for upcoming boards is a "joint" responsibility shared between the individual Marine and the command. Read it, heed it, and ensure your records and the records of your Marines are complete and ready for consideration.

Every eligible Marine has a statutory right to communicate with the president of his/her respective promotion selection board. This communication is termed "updated material" and often includes third party letters of recommendation. Guidance for the submission of these letters is provided in every promotion board convening ALMAR. Although there is no limit on the amount of updated material that a Marine may submit, recent promotion boards have noted an increase in the quantity versus quality. Simply put, Marines should ensure that the information that they are providing to the board as update material adds value or substance to their record. Many times, third party letters of recommendation do not provide the board with additional information, but only reiterate previously submitted fitness report evaluations. Please stress the importance of quality input vice simple quantity. It will greatly assist the promotion boards.

Officer Promotion Boards

All FY98 officer promotion board results have been announced, except the CWO board, whose results are pending Secretary of the Navy approval. An ALNAV message will announce the results of the CWO board.

Officer promotion boards for FY99 are:

Major General, USMC — Adjourned Oct. 3. The SECNAV signed the board report and the package has



Col. Dennis J. Hejlik, barracks commanding officer, pins new chevrons on Staff Sgt. Joseph S. Simmons, S-1, H&S Co., during a ceremony held Dec. 15 when Simmons checked into the battalion. (photo by Cpl. J.D. Pierce)

been forwarded to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for review.

Major General, USMCR — Adjourned Oct. 14. The board report has been forwarded to SECNAV for review and signature.

Brigadier General, USMC — Adjourned Oct. 24. The board report has been forwarded to SECNAV for review and signature.

Brigadier General, USMCR — Adjourned Nov. 3. The board report is currently under review at HQMC.

Colonel, USMC — Adjourned Oct. 23. The board report is currently under review at HQMC.

Lieutenant Colonel, USMC — Convened Nov. 12.

Lieutenant Colonel, USMCR — Convened April 14, 1998

Major, USMC — Convened Nov. 18, 1997.

Major, USMCR — Convened April 28, 1998.

Colonel/Lieutenant Colonel/Major, AR USMCR — Convened Jan. 13, 1998. This is a newly scheduled board that will consider Active Reserve officers for promotion. An ALMAR message will announce the eligibility zones.

Captain, USMC — Convened March 3, 1998.

Captain/Chief Warrant Officer, USMCR — Convened June 2, 1998.

Limited Duty Officer, USMC — Convened Jan. 27, 1998.

Chief Warrant Officer, USMC — Convened Aug. 11, 1998.

Marine 'snakes' find 'drinks' in Egyptian desert



Two AH-1W Super Cobras slither in behind a CH-53E Super Stallion, all from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263, to get a much-needed drink of fuel from the '53's Tactical Bulk Fuel Delivery System in the desert of Egypt during exercise Bright Star '97. (photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Landis)

by Staff Sgt. Jeff Landis
24th MEU(SOC)

MUBARAK MILITARY CITY, Egypt (Nov. 6) — Two venomous snakes slithered across the hot, desert floor in search of a drink, and suddenly came face-to-face with a large horse. Such was the case during a tactical refuel of two AH-1W Super Cobras by a CH-53E Super Stallion using a Tactical Bulk Fuel Delivery System. The tactical refuel was only a small portion of the training Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 experienced during Exercise Bright Star '97 in Egypt.

The "Thunder Eagles" of HMM-263, aviation combat element for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), recently conducted numerous training exercises and missions in support of Bright Star, a 10-day exercise designed to enhance the cooperation between seven participating nations to conduct combined operations in the U.S. Central Command.

According to Lt. Col. David Mollahan, the ACE's operations officer, the reinforced squadron used nearly every capability it possesses. "We've had some extremely valuable

training in the desert," said the CH-46E Sea Knight pilot and native of Ontario, Ore. "Everything the ACE can do, we did in Egypt. We were also able to train some of the younger pilots in every facet of what we do in a featureless environment."

The squadron participated in an amphibious landing demonstration to kick off Bright Star, which involved nearly 2,000 Marines and Sailors and 60,000 servicemembers representing the coalition forces of Egypt, Italy, France, Kuwait, United Kingdom, United States and the United Arab Emirates. The squadron also participated in exercises such as a helicopter raid, a Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel mission, refueling from a Forward Area Arming and Refueling Point with KC-130s, external lifts, day and night close air support training, joint operations with their foreign pilot counterparts, Cobra live-fire shoots, and using the CH-53E's TBFDS deep in the Egyptian desert.

Captain Jim R. Wright, a 29-year-old Super Stallion pilot, who conducted the tactical refuel, said the TBFDS was designed specifically to give the Cobras further range. "The TBFDS is a great tool as long as we employ it correctly and tactically,"

said the native of Little Valley, N.Y. "It's not to make the CH-53E into a flying gas station, it's to extend the reach of the Cobras during long-range missions."

Cobra pilots like Capt. Ian R. Clark appreciated the tactical value of the 40-minute refuel, which enabled him to fly even further into the Egyptian desert to conduct a live-fire shoot on some old Egyptian military equipment. "It was the first time the squadron employed the TBFDS in a tactical environment, and it enabled us to get some valuable trigger time," said the 27-year-old native of Peterborough, Ontario. "It was a great evolution all the way around, and we had a nice 'shopping center' of targets to choose from."

"It was unfamiliar territory and there was a lot of realism put into the shoot," said Capt. Robert L. Kimbrell, a 28-year-old Cobra pilot from Fort Walton Beach, Fla., who fired 2.75-inch rockets and the Cobra's 20mm cannon at the live targets. "There were so many things that had to work out to make the mission a success, and we kind of take that for granted sometimes. Kudos to everyone for making it happen so smoothly."

Perhaps one of the most signifi-

cant aspects of all flights was the close coordination and communication with the Navy to launch the birds from the ships, and the tight-knit communication link provided by the Direct Air Support Center (DASC) to the forward air controllers where the helicopters landed. The DASC, located at the command element's base camp, coordinated all fixed and rotary-wing traffic coming into the MEU's airspace, and ensured frequencies were adhered to and established a communications plan. The task of coordinating medevac flights, logistics support and joint tactical air operations during Bright Star was the responsibility of Marines like Sgt. Gene Aiello.

"We get the aircraft on station and ensure they get to the FARP site, landing zones, or wherever they need to go safely," said Aiello, a 24-year-old communications chief from Pitts-

burgh. "The experience here in Egypt has been great. I'm holding a senior billet, I'm learning a lot of things and I'm having a lot of fun with it."

But none could forget those who enabled the birds to get up into the air in the first place — the helicopter crew chiefs, mechanics and plane captains. "As soon as the birds come back to the ship, we immediately troubleshoot the aircraft, so it can quickly go out on the next flight," said Cpl. Travis Silvers, a 22-year-old UH-1N Huey and Cobra mechanic from New Smyrna Beach, Fla. "We've got a great bunch of guys and a lot of experience on this float. We work hard on the aircraft, but we have fun at the same time."

"Flying in the desert has been a new experience for me, and I felt it and tasted it," said Cpl. Robert J. Jacobs, a 22-year-old CH-53E crew

chief from Dayton, Ohio, jokingly of the overwhelming rotorwash of dirt and sand. "From the maintenance to the sky, we do everything."

"Putting in long hours every day to keep the aircraft up was not unheard of during the exercise," said Sgt. David M. Leonard, a 29-year-old CH-46E phase crew leader from Badin, N.C. "Sand has definitely taken a toll on the rotor blades, but we've been working our tails off and kept the aircraft flying."

"We flew a lot of hours in a short period of time, and it took a lot of work to keep the aircraft up and flying," said Mollahan. "It was an outstanding evolution for us, and now we've got some great experiences and lessons learned to take with us from our training in the desert."



An AH-1W Super Cobra fires 2.75" rockets on old Egyptian military equipment during a live-fire shoot in Egypt during Exercise Bright Star '97. (photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Landis)

Marines take part in Mediterranean exercise

by Staff Sgt. Phil Mehringer
22nd MEU(SOC)

KIPARRISSA, GREECE (Oct. 25, Delayed) — Marines from the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) recently participated in the largest NATO-led, multinational exercise in the Mediterranean theater this year. The joint, multi-warfare event included more than 24,000 people, of whom 13,700 were U.S. Armed Forces personnel. Other participating nations included Greece, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, and Poland. In all, more than 14 nations were involved in the two-week exercise.

“The event marked the first time in 15 years that this many nations participated in an exercise of this magnitude in the Mediterranean region,” said Capt. Paul Geary, fire support officer and assistant operations officer for the exercise.

The heart of the exercise was to rout a fictitious enemy who conducted air attacks, amphibious landings, attacks at sea, and simulated SCUD missile attacks against NATO allies on two separate fronts — northwestern Greece and southern Italy.

While operating in a split Amphibious Ready Group,

nearly 800 22nd MEU(SOC) Marines from Battalion Landing Team 1/2, Marine Service Support Group 22, and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261 participated in the exercise in Greece where the plan was to conduct an amphibious assault and cut off the enemy’s main effort of movement to the north. The Marines were embarked for their six month deployment aboard the USS Ponce (LPD-15) and the USS Carter Hall (LSD-50).

“Training goals of the exercise were to exchange tactics, techniques, procedures, and to enhance the skills of participating forces in conducting multinational operations,” added Geary.

To address interoperability and safety procedures, the exercise opened with a seven-day cross-training phase. Commanders and participants had the opportunity to learn from, observe, and work alongside their foreign counterparts.

“One of the more memorable events for 1st Platoon, Company C during Dynamic Mix was the cross-training evolution with the combat rubber reconnaissance craft,” said platoon sergeant Staff Sgt. Daniel Nadolski.

“Many of the nations involved had no experience operating small boats in a tactical situation. After a familiarization class and short demonstration, integrated forces



An Italian sniper peers around a corner, taking aim on an enemy position during Exercise Dynamic Mix. (photo by Staff Sgt. Phil Mehringer)



Capt. Tracy Tafolla (left), Company B commander, converses with 22nd MEU(SOC) Commanding Officer Col. S. T. Helland, about enemy activity and the company's direction of march during the force-on-force portion of Exercise Dynamic Mix. (photo by Staff Sgt. Phil Mehringer)

loaded the boats and conducted combined beach assaults for the first time," he added.

Before the tactical phase started, the assaulting forces backloaded to their ships in preparation for the amphibious landing. Prior to H-hour, while many ships remained over the horizon, 10 amphibious ships would be visible from Red and Blue beaches which marked the Beach Landing Zone for the assault waves.

"The tactical training phase for Dynamic Mix exceeded our expectations," said BLT 1/2 Commanding Officer Lt. Col. T.C. Greenwood.

Tactics for the allied forces were tailored by ground force commanders who operated in an environment where elevation varied from sea level to several thousands feet above sea level in the course of only a few hundred yards.

"Not only were we able to conduct a conventional amphibious assault with our allies but, once ashore, we transitioned to foot-mobile operations to best exploit the mountainous terrain. We reduced our prescribed load to a minimum, operated extensively at night, and used light infantry tactics against the opposing force," said Greenwood.

"We also had a company of Dutch Royal Marines



Marine forces from the Netherlands lift a U. S. Marine Combat Rubber Reconnaissance Craft out of the surf after using the boat during the cross-training phase of the exercise. (photo by Staff Sgt. Phil Mehringer)

attached to the BLT which provided us sufficient forces to achieve our training goals. It was a good ending to a great deployment," he added.

Exercise Dynamic Mix '97 was unique in many ways, but one of the more significant was the fact that the exercise was not limited to a military installation. Perhaps no earlier than the previous month, Red and Blue Beach would have been flooded with European tourists flocking to the Peloponnesian Beaches for their summer vacations.

For Capt. Juan Esparza, Spanish liaison officer and member of the Spanish small task group, the exercise marked another first. "Only two weeks before the start of the exercise, there was an agreement signed between the Spanish and Italian governments which created a permanent Amphibious Brigade — this is the first time that brigade has operated," he said.

Esparza also commented on the importance of training with other nations' militaries, "We can't stop combined training like this, we must learn our problem areas now and work to correct those areas."

The assault phase marked the beginning of what would be a 56-hour war. Operating in approximately 14 square miles of mountainous terrain, the exercise came to a close when assaulting forces successfully closed with and defeated the enemy.

"Dynamic Mix provided a unique opportunity to train and operate with our European allies," said 22nd MEU Commanding Officer Col. Sam Helland. "All nations participating benefited from the exercise. I know the American forces now understand and appreciate the capabilities and professionalism of our allies. We are looking forward to conducting Dynamic Mix '98 during our next deployment," he added.



Minutes after conducting an amphibious assault as part of Exercise Dynamic Mix, units from the 22nd MEU(SOC) thunder down Red Beach to preposition for a follow on movement as part of the 56-hour force-on-force phase of the exercise. (photo by Staff Sgt. Phil Mehringer)

From shots to maintaining records, docs do it all

by *Cpl. Matt S. Schafer*
Staff Writer

The human body is like a vehicle, with many elements and features which make it function. There are also many different ways to wreck the human vehicle, and Marines across the globe find new and improved methods to add to the list each year.

The difference between a Marine and a vehicle, in this case, is the repairing process.

From fractures to food poisoning, Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher F. Needham, head corpsman here, and the rest of the 8th and I corpsmen are an important part of that process. These sailors act as medical liaisons between barracks Marines and the Branch Clinic at the Washington Navy Yard for any medical problems or emergencies that occur.

Needham, Petty Officer 2nd Class Donnie P. Pennington, Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason M. M. Jones and Seaman Natasha Wallace support the barracks at all parades, field commitments and rehearsals, in addition to maintaining all 8th and I medical records.

"If we're not at the clinic, we're at the barracks taking care of business," Needham said. "There's always something going on."

In addition, the corpsmen make sure every Marine's immunization record is up to date. This includes giving shots, drawing blood and conducting physicals.

In addition to barracks commitments, Needham said the corpsmen also have duties at the clinic.

"We see sick call patients, we'll schedule appointments, and we'll take care of medical boards," Needham said. "Basically, you name it, we do it."

While the corpsmen perform many duties, the medical cases they handle generally deal with orthopedic injuries and dehydration.

"We deal with a lot of sports injuries due to over-conditioning," Needham said. "Too much physical activity is just as bad as not enough, and you need to give things time to heal."

According to Needham, sports injuries and heat casualties are two ailments haunt-

ing Marines corpswide; however, 8th and I does have one characteristic distinguishing corpsmen's missions here from other duty stations.

"We are required to take care of civilians during parade night," said Pennington. "So we are required to be certified, active Emergency Medical Technicians."

Becoming a certified EMT is just part of the broad training corpsmen receive. Every Navy corpsman begins training with a 16-week school, which provides detailed instruction on human anatomy and physiology.

"The school deals with a lot of theory on how the body works," Needham said. "Our job is to act like policemen. We are detectives of the body and we try to figure out what's wrong with the patient."

Following the basic course, corpsmen go through Fleet Marine Force Training, a five-week course that takes them to the field with Marine units. The students learn how to work with Marines during a wartime scenario.

"Our primary mission as corpsmen is to go with Marines to combat, so that's what they train us for," Needham said.

"I think working with Marines definitely gives you a higher sense of honor," Needham concluded. "Every corpsman should serve [his or her] first tour with Marines to learn the rank structure and learn how things are done in a Marine unit."



Petty Officer 2nd Class Donnie P. Pennington (right) assists physician Lt. Tim R. Hastings, from the Navy Annex, in relieving the pressure of an ingrown toenail during FEX '97, a recent field exercise at Ft. A.P. Hill in Virginia. (photo by Cpl. Pauline L. Render)

The swoosh of blades cutting the ice give fair warning: the Bull Dogs are coming. The Corps' first hockey team is slicing its way into history each time it meets a new challenger in a ...

face-off on the ice

by *Cpl. Nelson O. Akeredolu*
Staff Writer

The Marine Barracks "Bull Dogs" are skating their way into history as the first ice hockey team to play competitively for the Marine Corps according to Morale, Welfare and Recreation officials.

The team formed last September and is the only base or battalion ice hockey team in the Marine Corps at this time, according to Jim Medley, varsity sports coordinator, Sports Activities Division, Base MWR office at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

According to Medley, the Marine Corps normally does not create hockey teams because forming competitive teams is difficult with the lack of proper facilities.

"If you live in or around the Marine Corps, a lot of places you are stationed don't have ice arenas in the vicinity. This often makes it a logistical problem in putting teams together and scheduling games," said Medley.

The Marines said they regard their participation as very significant.

"Right now, this is the only hockey team in the Marine Corps, so we kind of represent the whole Ma-

rine Corps," said Lance Cpl. Jeffrey P. McGee, a logistics clerk with the Marine Corps Institute and team defenseman.

"There are going to be people in the Marine Corps or people who are around the Marine Corps who are going to ask, 'Other Marine Corps bases don't have a hockey team, why do you?'" he continued. "So, we are kind of carrying the whole Marine Corps on our shoulders."

Some members of the team said they feel that being Marines is a definite advantage on the ice.

"I think the fact that we're Marines mentally factors in on the other teams we play," said McGee.

"There is definitely a respect factor once they know who they are playing. When we play them, they have to

make a mental shift because they feel they are playing Marines and not some pushover team."

The advantages are more than just mental, according to McGee.

"There is a discipline factor, and we are definitely more in shape than [other teams], even though they spend more time on the ice," said McGee.

The barracks team competes once a week in the advanced level of the Fairfax Mens League. The league is a "house league" that plays all its games at the Fairfax Ice Arena in Fairfax, Va. All the players are skilled and have several years experience playing hockey on high school, college or private league teams according to Lance Cpl. Gabriel Laserna, a graphic artist with MCI company and team center with more than 10 years hockey experience.

The Bull Dogs are a diverse team. Unlike most Marine Corps teams made up of active duty Marines from the same unit or base, the Bull Dogs consist of eight Marines, two former Marines and two civilians, not associated with the barracks.

The players interact well despite this difference.

"We have a lot of mutual respect for each other and get along well," said Laserna.



Bull Dogs' Lance Cpl. Jesse G. Boardman, MCI Logistics, (right) reaches for the puck before a Buffalo Sabres player can take control during a recent match. (photo by Cpl. Nelson O. Akeredolu)

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Corps helps Marine train for life-long dream

by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer
Staff Writer

Some children dream of becoming an astronaut, inventor or dancer. A number of these dreams may become lost in the shuffle of day-to-day life, but Lance Cpl. Jonathan S. Hill, administration clearance clerk, is working to make his dream of playing college football a reality.

When Hill is not handling business in the administrative section here, he said he is using the physical and mental discipline he has learned in the Marine Corps to pursue his dream.

Hill started playing football around age 7 with his older brother. For the next seven years the Waukesha, Wis., native played football "religiously" around his neighborhood.

"My friends and I used to play games in each other's backyards every time we had a chance," Hill said. "I played backyard football until I was 15 years old, when I started playing high school football."

During his four years on the Waukesha North High School football team, Hill was the wide receiver and the cornerback, and made the starting line-up his junior and senior years.

Hill played in 27 games throughout high school, but he said he gave his best and worst performance in the same game.

"In the first half, everything that could go wrong did go wrong," Hill said. "I dropped passes, I dropped the ball on a kickoff return, and I was having a rough day on the defense."

When Hill returned to the locker room during half-time, he said he knew he would have to prove his talent to himself and his teammates in the second half of the game.

"In the second half of the game, I made two interceptions, blocked three passes and had five receptions," Hill boasted. "Unfortunately, we didn't win the game."

Hill graduated high school in 1995 with an athletic



Lance Cpl. Jonathan S. Hill, administration clearance clerk, logs medical checks for clearance packages. Hill is using the mental and physical toughness the Marine Corps has taught him to pursue his dream of playing college football. (photo by Cpl. Matt S. Schafer)

scholarship offer from Princeton University in New Jersey, but his academic skills prevented him from attending.

"I had a \$1,500 scholarship to go to play for their team, but my grades were not high enough to go to Princeton," Hill explained.

Hill said he joined the Marine Corps in July 1995 looking for another way to better himself when his plans for Princeton fell through.

"I joined the Marine Corps for the experience and so I could know that I could be on my own and make it," Hill explained.

Two years later, Hill said he feels like the Marine Corps has helped him mature and learn how to focus on a goal.

"I am definitely in better shape physically than I was before I joined the Marines, and I feel a lot stronger mentally," Hill stated. "I've seen some of the smaller college football

teams play each other and I think I'm good enough to be on one of those teams."

Hill said he continues to play football every chance he gets, and works out three to four times a week with Sgt. Terrence L. Woodard, Service Record Book chief, to prepare for college football.

"I think Hill could play college football if he wanted to," Woodard said. "He puts out full effort in everything he does in the office and in the gym. He has a lot of heart."

In addition to working out in the gym, Hill worked on his football skills during the 1996 intramural flag football season, and plans to do the same this season.

"Last year everybody who played eight-man flag football seemed to enjoy it," Hill said. "This year I want to make a few calls to set it up again."

Hill has less than two years before he plans to step out on the field of any college campus, but he said that is just more time to prepare.

"I love playing football for the competition," Hill explained. "I'd like to play for the University of Wisconsin, but I'll go anywhere where they will take me."

From followers to leaders

Marines use Corps fundamentals to coach teens

by Cpl. J.D. Pierce
Staff Writer

The crashing sounds echo through the hockey arena like artillery rounds impacting upon a target. The only voices discernible over the noise are those of the coaches barking motivation and words of encouragement to the tired, desperate young players.

After a long series of coordination and agility drills, the coaches race up the ice, leaving the team scrambling to keep up.

Keeping the team moving is part of the coaching staff's philosophy of teamwork and physical improvement.

The team's coaches have tested their abilities as role models, and they are very familiar with the way Marine Corps drill instructors use pure motivation to help Marine recruits give honest, 100-percent effort.

Lance Cpls. Gabriel Laserna, Jeffrey P. McGee and Jesse G. Boardman said being junior league hockey coaches is a combination of mentoring and motivating.



Teens on the Northern Virginia Icedogs hockey team run through drills during a practice session. (photo by Cpl. J.D. Pierce)

Although this is the trio's first year coaching a hockey team, their combined years of experience in hockey and their Marine Corps training give them the strong leadership ability they need to be successful at coaching hockey, according to Laserna.

"When we first started coaching hockey, it was kind of awkward for me," said Laserna. "It was hard to get used to being the one responsible for motivating the players, instead of waiting for someone else to come out and motivate me."

The three Marines, attached to the Marine Corps Institute, have been motivating and challenging the 13-, 14- and 15-year-olds of the Northern Virginia Icedogs for three months now.

"We are a small and fairly inexperienced team," said Laserna. "We've come a long way and we still have a long



(from left to right) Lance Cpls. Gabriel Laserna, Jeffrey P. McGee and Jesse G. Boardman brief their junior league hockey team on the drills they will cover before a recent practice session. The Marines volunteer their time to coach the teenage boys in a traveling Virginia league. (photo by Cpl. J.D. Pierce)

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Center House offers insight on barracks history

by *Cpl. J.D. Pierce*
Staff Writer

The Commissioned Officers' Mess at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., is a small gathering place for barracks officers and their guests.

Center House, as it is called, is a place of solace far removed from the ceremonial "busyness" that envelops "the Oldest Post of the Corps" throughout the year.

As with any home, there is a room offering a special kind of solace ... a place where officers can sit down and read a book or just relax.

In this house, the library is just such a place.

"The library in Center House is like no other library I've ever seen," said Lt. Col. Michael B. Kessler, barracks executive officer. "There is no librarian, no overdue book fines or even a checkout system for accountability. The only accountability is

the watchful eye of Archibald Henderson's painting on the opposite side of the room."

More than 300 books of varying subject matter, authors and titles line the shelves of this small but invaluable collection.

"The books themselves are not really the all-important factor of the Center House library," said Kessler. "The importance of the collection lies written on the inside cover of each of the books."

According to Kessler, it has become a Center House tradition for officers leaving the barracks to present a gift to the officers of the mess.

"Although some people choose to donate other things to Center House, books are and have been the favored donation of most of the officers that leave here," said Kessler.

In addition, departing officers include a personal touch to their donation.

"An inscription can be found on the inside cover of each of the books," said Kessler. "Some officers provide humorous words of wisdom, notable quotations or their own personal thoughts and challenges. It is through this personal touch that the library has taken on a life of its own."

The personal touch is exemplified on the inside cover of Navy Cmdr. C. W. Windas' book "Traditions of the Navy," donated by Capt. Keith D. Flower in Aug. 1994 with the following inscription:

"To the Mess:

Just as the traditions of the Navy and Marine Corps have been honored and passed down through the ranks, I pass this book on to the mess.

The original owner of this book was a guest at our Friday night parade in July '93. That parade also marked the 43rd year of his arrival on the 'yellow footprints' at MCRD Parris Island.

I can think of no finer way to honor this Marine, my uncle, SSgt. V. George Spellman, than to leave a part of him with Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

Enjoy it as I have."

The inscriptions are really the only clues as to the history of how and when the library got started, but they do not answer the question of who came up with the idea, said Kessler.

More importantly, the officers here feel the library offers a living history to the barracks and a glimpse into the way history has a tendency to repeat itself.

"Often times I find myself perusing through the book titles and the front of the books to read what the



The library in Center House contains more than 300 books, each containing an inscription and signed by an officer formerly stationed here. It is a place where officers here can relax and reflect upon the words of advice or motivation passed down from officers before them. (photo by Cpl. J.D. Pierce)

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Hockey team continued

Several of the teammates also collaborate on projects off the ice as well. McGee and Laserna coach a local little league hockey team in their spare time. They do it to foster camaraderie outside their professional atmosphere and for the love of the sport according to McGee.

Besides a mutual respect for each other, most of the players have a respect for all who play the game.

"To play hockey you have to have a certain amount of toughness to you," said Laserna. "It's a very physical sport like football, but, it's different because it's fast and the action never stops. It's kind of on the same line as lacrosse and soccer."

His teammate also expressed this view.

"I think that ice hockey requires a lot of talent to play," said McGee. "You have to learn to skate on ice on one edge; you have to be able to skate backwards; you have to be able to stick-handle a puck that you're not looking at; you have to be able to make pinpoint passes to

people who have to instinctively move into position for the pass; and when you make a shot, you have to be able to pick where your shot will go. In sports like baseball, you don't really pick where you're going to hit the ball. Maybe only five percent of all baseball players can say, 'yeah, I can put the ball wherever I want to.' ... but everybody in the National Hockey League can say, 'I can put the puck where I want to.'"

The hockey season lasts until mid-April, but the Bull Dogs are looking much further ahead.

"This is fun, but we are looking toward the future," said Laserna. "It is our inaugural year. Next year, we would like to get the word out at Henderson Hall and maybe even Quantico to try to get a bigger team together. Maybe like an 'East Marine Team.' We would like to see it on a bigger scale than just the Marine Barracks in a house league ... Eventually, I would like to see the formation of an all Marine team."

Marine coaches continued

way to go to be at the level where we can start winning a lot of our games."

The Icedogs are the "B" team, or second string, in a traveling northern Virginia league, according to Laserna. The team's traveling schedule takes them as far as Connecticut, New York, Philadelphia and New Jersey, with a few games as close as northern Virginia and Maryland.

"Sometimes not having a 'home' is hard on the team," said McGee. "But, it does motivate them in a different way to be in a strange place with only their coaches and parents there for support."

According to George C. Resto, father of one of the players, the Marines bring a wealth of knowledge and a different kind of energy to the team of fairly inexperienced young players.

"These guys get out there and show the kids how it's

done," said Resto. "They don't take any excuses and they don't expect the kids to do anything they can't do themselves. They constantly show

the kids how the drills can be done faster, better and smarter than they were done before."

The three Marines said they pride themselves in carrying the character traits the Marine Corps instilled in them over to the hockey rink.

"The Marine Corps' philosophy of working smarter, not harder is an excellent tool to live by," said McGee. "When I am required to lead by example, I get more serious about what kind of a challenge I am taking on. Whether it be coaching hockey or leading a fire team, I make sure I know exactly what I'm doing and what I'm asking other people to do."

Teamwork, sportsmanship and professionalism are key lessons which are stressed during every practice and every game, according to Laserna.

"We don't want these young men growing up think-



Icedogs players run through drills during a recent practice session. (photo by J.D. Pierce)

ing winning is the most important thing," added Boardman. "We want them to know what it means to give everything you've got and be required to give more. We want to stress the importance of personal and team character over the numbers on the scoreboard after the final buzzer."

Although the team has not had a record season on the ice this year, the players are starting to see and feel the rewards of months of hard work and discipline.

"Sometimes I feel like a real Marine during practice," said Brian R. Ferguson, 15-year-old member of the Icedogs. "With all of the excitement and commotion during practice there

is no time to stop and think, or even slow down. You just do what you are told as quick and as good as you can."

According to Laserna, a high motivation level from the coaches is a great way to keep the kids' attention and let the players know the coaches are as motivated to be at practice as the players are about practicing.

Attitude and perseverance are the real keys to being a successful hockey player, but the character traits instilled in the players on the ice can also affect their lives outside the rink, according to Boardman.

"We teach [the players] teamwork and discipline on the ice so they can win during a game and so they are

successful in life," said Boardman. "I never thought I could be a part of something that meant so much to another person's life. It's a good feeling."

With a full winter schedule ahead of the Icedogs, the team spends hours on the ice preparing for each game.

"I know my son gets tired sometimes, but I never hear him complain," said Resto. "Even though he may not be able to comprehend all of what he is learning right now, he will look back on these three guys and remember that the Marines taught him how to be a man. That's why I want my son to play here."

Library continued

departing officers wrote," said Capt. Katherine M. McDonald, barracks adjutant. "I am always amazed that regardless of how much time has passed between the time the book was donated to the time that the book was last looked at, how the feeling of 'esprit de corps' and camaraderie prevail through the departing words conveyed by the officer."

It is the feelings of brotherhood and the cohesion of the officer corps here that breathe life into the hardback and paperback books of the Center House library, added Kessler.

"The Center House library is more than a collection of dusty old books," said Capt. Karl C. Rohr, barracks Morale, Welfare and Recreation officer. "These books are a treasure trove of knowledge and history which benefit the Corps by increasing our professional education and our sense of tradition which are the hallmarks of the Marine officer."

According to Rohr, many of the books are rare first editions and are quite valuable.

"The books that are donated are special and several are signed by their authors," said Rohr.

Some of the more notable signed editions include titles from Tom Clancy, John Gruder Miller's, "The Bridge



(photo by Cpl. J.D. Pierce)

At Dong Ha" and a copy of "Iwo Jima" signed by the famous photographer, Joe Rosenthal.

"I enjoy the library because the shelves are lined with books I would never have thought to look for on my own," said Capt. Sasan K. Sabet, Co. "A" executive officer. "Every time I stand [duty as the] officer of the day, I make it a point to start reading at least one of the books."

Although the collection is small, the library contains a wide variety of historical, political and humorous titles that help give Marines a more intelligent and informed opinion on past and current events, according to Sabet.

Learning and professional education are being stressed, now more than ever, for each individual Marine at the barracks, said Kessler.

"The Center House library is an excellent source of nearly every facet of Marine and American history," said Kessler. "By continuing the traditions of the library we are not only giving to today's generation of the Marine officer, but we are leaving a piece of today to help form the future of our Corps."

When you see these Marines, congratulate them on their recent promotion.

H&S Company

Sgt. R.A. Blakley Jr.
Sgt. T.B. Maduzia
Sgt. O.T. Shipp IV
Sgt. J. Torres
Cpl. M.P. Delleart
Cpl. S.A. Sicely
Lance Cpl. J.R. Auge
Lance Cpl. J.P. Bishop
Lance Cpl. J.M. Brimmer
Lance Cpl. A.L. Catania
Lance Cpl. J.J. Childress
Lance Cpl. R.D. Fuzzell
Lance Cpl. T.M. Keough
Lance Cpl. S.J. Laureto
Lance Cpl. D.L. Wyatt
Pfc. C.L. Woods Jr.

Security Company

Cpl. D.K. Lockett
Cpl. N.M. Prodell
Sgt. K.B. Dawson
Cpl. T.L. Mason
Cpl. N.P. Draper

U.S.N.A. Company

Pfc. D.H. Younkins

MCI Company

Cpl. C.R. Chang
Cpl. Cruz-Montanez
Cpl. W.H. Davis
Cpl. H. Dorlean
Cpl. D.T. Nguyen
Cpl. J.C. Yelverton
Lance Cpl. M. Kapka
Lance Cpl. E.L. Lopez
Lance Cpl. S.J. Osborne
Pfc. T.D. Walker

Drum & Bugle Company

Sgt. N.A. Eddy-Bennett

Company "A"

Sgt. C.P. Garrity
Cpl. L.T. Diede
Cpl. J.D. Mann
Cpl. G.J. Powers G.J.

Cpl. S.B. Sullivan
Lance Cpl. J.L. Marquez
Pfc. B.M. Antis
Pfc. C.S. Brunner
Pfc. I.M. Myers
Pfc. P.J. Pendleton
Pfc. R.D. Scott
Pfc. L.J. Searcy

Company "B"

Cpl. C.J. Williamson
Cpl. J.G. Wilcox
Lance Cpl. R.K. White Jr.
Cpl. E.C. Watts Jr.

Congratulations to the following Marines for the awards they received in December.

**Navy/Marine Corps
Commendation Medal**
Master Sgt. G.D. Boice
Master Sgt. J.A. Moore

**Navy/Marine Corps
Achievement Medal**
Gunnery Sgt. J.C. Fiero
Gunnery Sgt. D.T. Schedler
Staff Sgt. K.D. Buckles
Sgt. K. McCants
Sgt. J.L. Mackling
Sgt. L.F. Mejia
Sgt. A.L. Poole
Cpl. R.Z. Ayala
Cpl. D.O. Bratz
Cpl. M.B. Clark
Cpl. H. McCrindle

Cpl. D.W. Owens II
Cpl. B.D. Rice
Lance Cpl. K.S. Taff

Congratulations to the following first-term Marines who re-enlisted recently.

Sgt. T.M. McNeal
Sgt. A.J. Walker
Sgt. D.E. Warner
Cpl. B.M. Laster
Cpl. T.J. Mitchell
Cpl. W.R. Rulapaugh

Congratulations to the following career Marines who re-enlisted recently.

Gunnery Sgt. E.H. Hughes
Gunnery Sgt. J.J. Mackrell
Gunnery Sgt. R.L. Pennington
Staff Sgt. R.W. Crumpton

Best wishes to the following Marines on the recent additions to their families.

Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Gregory Mulholland had an 8-pound, 3-ounce baby boy, Patrick, Nov. 7.

Sgt. and Mrs. Robert Espino had a 7-pound, 14.75-ounce baby boy, Brannon, Dec. 16.

Sgt. and Mrs. Kenneth Morris had a 7-pound, 1-ounce baby boy, Joseph, Dec. 18.



Outstanding!

Sgt. Nicole A. Eddy-Bennett, baritone bugler, is congratulated by SgtMaj. Dennis J. Frye, barracks sergeant major, after her recent promotion to her current rank. The promoting officer was Col. Truman W. Crawford, director of the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps. (Photo by Cpl. J.D. Pierce)

Check compass when charting path for life

by Lt. Kenneth D. Counts
Barracks Chaplain

Driving across southern Louisiana, a confused traveler stopped to ask a local resident for directions to Baton Rouge, the capitol. That resident, a Cajun, thought for a long time and replied, "Man, you can't get there from here."

Land Navigation training has sometimes left me with similar thoughts. I wondered where might we be, exactly? How did we get here? And where should we be? At times I have stood looking at my compass and looking back at the map, looking around for terrain features, looking back at the map, rethinking my pace count and wondering if the other Marine's pace count was accurate?

Once I enjoyed a lengthy stroll over "hill and dell" in the National Training Area with a band of brothers who set out without checking the map, taking a compass reading and maintaining no pace count. The team leader took great offense that I should question his natural, innate sense of direction. And indeed I must admit, I was wrong to have doubted his lead. After a short time, we succeeded in arriving nowhere we should have gone to, knowing nothing about where we were located. We were lost. But we had checked off the block for being in the field. Life is just too short to waste going nowhere and being absent from the appointed places we should reach.

A new year and a new calendar always make me wonder whether I, or we, are making progress toward the right destinations. Not to suggest that you do not know where you are going, but I find myself constantly checking my own compass heading and pace count.

Time should be seen as a precious resource. Once past it cannot be recaptured. You and I only have the present moment. We have no guarantee of how much future time we may have. We have no access to reuse days gone by. So wisdom is necessary to make the best use of each day. We are tempted to lapse into calm indifference as if we would live forever and need take no thought to plan or maximize our uses of every hour of each day. Such a person becomes blind to the time he, or

she, is wasting, squandering, foolishly spending extravagantly.

Think back to your last visit home. How many of your pals are still in the same places doing the very same things you remember doing when you were in high school with them. You can bank on most of those people continuing the same slow death. Like the newscaster stuck in endless repetitions of "Groundhog Day," they feel "every day is the same and nothing you do matters." But that should not be so for you, Marine. You joined to go places and achieve levels you never could if you remained back there.

You have places to go, people to see, and work demanding you stretch higher and farther.

Life in your competitive world sorts men and women exceedingly fine to determine who is the best and who will stay diligently in front. There are no more days to waste. There are no excessive periods for rest. Rest when you're dead. Today, strive to live to the fullest.

Some men strive to "seize the day" and burn out in a lust for pleasure and uncontrolled thrill seeking. Some persons strive to make the most of the present and burn out in workaholic regret. Some live for selfish pride and crash in guilt and loneliness. Just living hard does not assure you are rightly headed. A fanatic is someone who, having lost all sense of direction, redoubles his, or her, efforts.

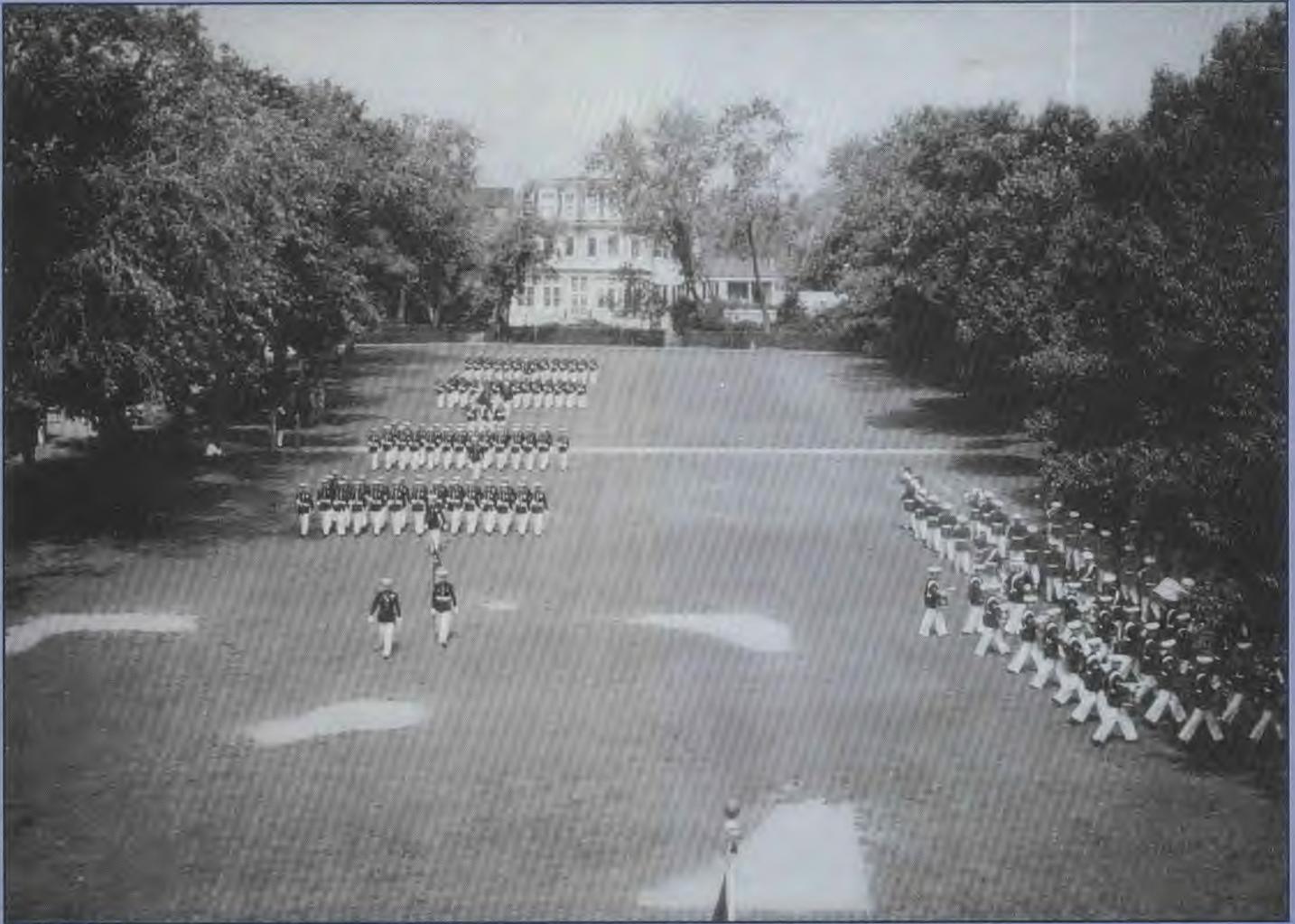
What about you, reader? Have you lived long enough to notice some erroneous azimuths, some faulty pace counting, some need to sharpen your "Land Nav" skills? Where are you today? Where should you be going this year? Who are you taking along? What impact are you having on their lives? How will you know whether or not you arrive at the proper destination?

From my friend Paul, maker of high quality tentage and camping gear, a man who used his time well, "Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise, but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

You think about that. God bless.



**Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C.
1953**



Parade Deck/Ceremonial Baseball Diamond

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